



S66 W14325 JANESVILLE RD • MUSKEGO WI 53150 • WELS • 414.422.0320 • WWW.STPAULMUSKEGO.ORG

LORD, HAVE MERCY
PERSISTENCE IN THE FACE OF FAILURE
March 22 and 23, 2025

One of the definitions of failure is the omission of expected or required action or, to put it another way, not doing the things we should do. We don't have to think too hard or too long to see how often Jesus experienced failure — not his own but that of those around him: Peter, his best friend; the leaders of the church, his church, and the political leaders of his day. How Jesus persisted in the face of failure! Today we'll examine the extent to which Jesus endured, lay our own sins of failure before him, be assured by the gospel that we have been forgiven, and be encouraged to persist in spite of the failure of those around us.



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S – CONNECTION CARD

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card so we can provide God's people here at St. Paul's with the best spiritual care. You can also fill out the card online and find other resources by scanning the QR Code.

CHILDCARE EVERY SUNDAY 7:45 – 10:45 am in east wing of the church.

SUNDAY KIDS CLUB 9:30 – 10:30 am at the school. Register online at stpaulmuskego.org/kidsclub.

ACCESSIBILITY A hearing loop system and large-print worship folders are available.

QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE? Visit the Welcome Center in the lobby where a greeter will be happy to assist you.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC MEDITATION (Sunday)

Largo from New World Symphony

By A. Dvorak, Arr. J. A. Villanueva

St. Paul's Brass Ensemble

BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN RED 339, vv. 1, 2, 4

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

**Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.**

**Today your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised: A glorious crown in heav'n.**

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
 What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?
 When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
 We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

Congregation stands

L O Lord, o-pen my lips.

C And my mouth shall de-clare your praise.

L Hasten to save me, O God.

C O Lord, come quickly to help me.

L Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

C Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,

let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;

come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses

L 1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
 2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,

cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,

to Refrain
you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds.

C **Yet your Son Jesus willingly submitted himself to the cross to bear that punishment for us.**

M Thank you for graciously cleansing us from all our sin.

C **Fill us with your love. Teach us to live a life that always looks to put the needs of others, including those who let us down, before our own.**

M We pray through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 130, Red Hymnal page 114

The psalmist rejoices in God's forgiveness and declares his determination to put all his hope in the Lord.

M Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest's courtyard with Jesus. But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in.

The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made because it was cold. While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.

One of the servant girls of the high priest came there. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying,

C "I don't know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him."

M When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it with an oath and said,

C "I do not know the man."

M After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!" Then he began to curse and to swear,

C "I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!"

M At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times." He went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why are you questioning me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."

When he said this, one of the guards standing there hit Jesus in the face. "Is that how you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

"If I said something wrong," Jesus answered, "testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?"

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?" But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him,

C "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

M Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?"

They answered, "He is deserving of death!" Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?" The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? That's your problem."

He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money." They reached a decision to buy the potter's field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

C **They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me.**

M Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered him, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews said, "It's not legal for us to put anyone to death."

C **This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.**

M They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus replied,

C **"My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here."**

M "You are a king then?" Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, "I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth.

C **Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."**

M "What is truth?" Pilate said to him.

After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

But they kept insisting, "He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here."

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne Salvation to bestow,
But such disdain! So few The longed-for Christ would know!
But oh, my friend, My friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way And his sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for his death They thirst and cry.

Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run; He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And 'gainst him rise.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save; The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he To suff'ring goes
That he his foes From death might free.

SERMON

Luke 22:54-71, Bible page 1057

Pastor David Kuehl

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

Here might I stay and sing; No story so divine,
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.
- C **We confess that without your love we are lost.**
- M Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
- C **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**
- M Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.
- C **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**
- M Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.
- C **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**
- M Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.
- C **Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**
- Special prayers and intercessions.*
- M Here us, as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- M Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful, even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
 Let the water and the blood From thy riven side which flowed
 Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling;
 Naked, come to thee for dress, Helpless, look to thee for grace.
 Foul, I to the fountain fly -- Wash me, Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
 When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!

CLOSING PRAYER

M Lord Jesus, in you and in you alone we find deliverance.
 C We are not our own. We were bought at a price. Help us to look to you and to your Word
 to find strength to love each other as you have loved us.

M You are the Lord forevermore.
 C Amen.

BLESSING

L The Lord bless and keep you.

C A - men.

L The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.

C A - men.

L The Lord grant you peace for all your days.

C A - men.